

Claims:

1. A system comprising:

- (a) a receptor member having one or more light-receiving members,
5 each light receiving member capable of generating a respective electrical signal in
response to light incident on said light-receiving member, said receptor member
detachably connectable to a light-emitting member that indicates the existence of an
event by emitting a light signal associated with said event;
- (b) a processor operatively connected to said receptor member so as to
10 receive said respective electrical signals from said receptor member, said processor
operatively connected to an audio member capable of emitting an audio signal associated
with said event; and
- (c) said processor being capable of causing said audio member to emit
said audio signal when said receptor member is connected to said light emitting member
15 and said light emitting member emits said light signal.

2. The system of claim 1 where said receptor member is detachably
connectable to a light emitting member capable of indicating the existence of one of a
plurality of events by emitting one of a plurality of light signals, each respective light
20 signal uniquely associated with one of said plurality of events, said audio member is
capable of generating a plurality of audio signals, each said audio signal associated with
one of said plurality of events, and said processor is capable of causing said audio
member to emit the audio signal associated with a one of said plurality of events when

said receptor member is connected to said light emitting member and said light emitting member emits the light signal associated with said one of said plurality of events.

3. The system of claim 2 where at least two of said plurality of events are not mutually exclusive and said processor is capable of causing said audio member to emit the audio signals associated with said at least two of said plurality of events when said light emitting member simultaneously emits the light signals associated with said at least two of said plurality of events.

10 4. The system of claim 3 where said processor prioritizes said at least two of said plurality of events into a sequence and causes said audio member to emit the audio signals associated with said at least two of said plurality of events in said sequence.

15 5. The system of claim 2 where at least two of said plurality of events are not mutually exclusive, and said processor prioritizes said at least two of said plurality of events so that said processor causes said audio member to emit the audio signal associated with only one of said at least two of said plurality of events when said light emitting member simultaneously emits the light signals associated with said at least two of said plurality of events.

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6. The system of claim 1 where at least one of said events is associated with a time varying light signal.

7. The system of claim 6 where said processor is capable of sampling the respective electrical signals received from said receptor member to detect said at least one of said events.

5 8. The system of claim 1 having a self-contained power source.

9. The system of claim 1 where said receptor member comprises a plurality of charge coupled devices.

10 10. The system of claim 1 where said receptor member comprises a plurality of CMOS devices.

11. The system of claim 1 where said receptor member is detachably connectable to at least one of a computer, a computer display, a telephone display, a fax
15 machine display, computer printer display, a modem, a PDA, or a network router.

12. The system of claim 1 where said processor is programmable.

13. The system of claim 12 where said audio device is programmable.

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14. The system of claim 1 including a plurality of said receptor members, each detachably connectable to one of a plurality of said light emitting members and said processor is capable of causing said audio device to emit an audio signal associated with

an event associated with a light signal from any of said plurality of said light emitting devices.

15. The system of claim 1 including a headset detachably connectable to said
5 audio device.

16. The system of claim 1 where said audio signal is a voice recording.

17. The system of claim 1 where said processor prioritizes electrical signals
10 from said light sensitive devices into a sequence and processes the electrical signals in said sequence.

18. The system of claim 1 where said processor is capable of recognizing at
least one two dimensional pattern of light emitted by said light-emitting member and
15 associating an event with each said at least one pattern.

19. The system of claim 18 where said audio device has a default audio signal
associated with undefined patterns of light and said processor causes said audio device to
emit said default audio signal when said light emitting device emits an undefined pattern
20 of light.

20. The system of claim 1 where said light-emitting device displays words, said processor is capable of distinguishing said words and causing said audio device to audibly recite said words.

5 21. A system comprising:

(a) a receptor member having one or more light-receiving members, each light receiving member capable of generating a respective electrical signal in response to light incident on said light-receiving member, said receptor member detachably connectable to a light-emitting member capable of emitting light in a plurality
10 of states and indicates the existence of an event by changing the light emitted by said light emitting member from a first state to a second state.

(b) a processor operatively connected to said receptor member so as to receive said respective electrical signals from said receptor member, said processor operatively connected to an audio member capable of emitting an audio signal associated
15 with said event; and

(c) said processor being capable of causing said audio member to emit said audio signal when said receptor member is connected to said light emitting member and said light emitting member changes the light emitted by said light emitting member from said first state to said second state.

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22. The system of claim 21 where said receptor member is detachably connectable to a light emitting member capable of indicating the existence of one of a plurality of events by changing the light emitted by said light emitting member from a

first state to one of a plurality of unique second states each associated with one of said plurality of events, said audio member is capable of generating a plurality of audio signals, each said audio signal associated with one of said plurality of events, and said processor is capable of causing said audio member to emit the audio signal associated with a one of said plurality of events when said receptor member is connected to said light emitting member and said light emitting member changes the light emitted by said light emitting member from said first state to the one of said plurality of second states associated with said one of said plurality of events.

10 23. The system of claim 22 where at least two of said plurality of events are not mutually exclusive, one of said plurality of events is the concurrence of said at least two of said plurality of events, and said processor is capable of causing said audio member to emit the audio signals associated with said at least two of said plurality of events when said light emitting member changes the light emitted by said light emitting member from said first state to the one of said plurality of second states associated with the one of said plurality of events that is the concurrence of said at least two of said plurality of events.

20 24. The system of claim 23 where said processor prioritizes said at least two of said plurality of events into a sequence and causes said audio member to emit the audio signals associated with said at least two of said plurality of events in said sequence.

25. The system of claim 22 where at least two of said plurality of events are not mutually exclusive, one of said plurality of events is the concurrence of said at least two of said plurality of events, and said processor prioritizes said at least two of said plurality of events so that said processor causes said audio member to emit the audio signal associated with only one of said at least two of said plurality of events when said light emitting member changes the light emitted by said light emitting member from said first state to the one of said plurality of second states associated with the one of said plurality of events that is the concurrence of said at least two of said plurality of events.

10 26. The system of claim 21 where at least one of said states is a time varying light signal.

27. The system of claim 26 where said processor is capable of sampling the respective electrical signals received from said receptor member to detect said at least one of said states.

28. The system of claim 21 having a self-contained power source.

29. The system of claim 21 where said receptor member comprises a plurality of charge coupled devices.

30. The system of claim 21 where said receptor member comprises a plurality of CMOS devices.

31. The system of claim 21 where said receptor member is detachably connectable to at least one of a computer, a computer display, a telephone display, a fax machine display, computer printer display, a modem, a PDA, or a network router.

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32. The system of claim 21 where said processor is programmable.

33. The system of claim 32 where said audio device is programmable.

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34. The system of claim 21 including a plurality of said receptor members, each detachably connectable to one of a plurality of said light emitting members and said processor is capable of causing said audio device to emit an audio signal associated with an event associated with a change of states of light from any of said plurality of said light emitting devices.

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35. The system of claim 21 including a headset detachably connectable to said audio device.

36. The system of claim 21 where said audio signal is a voice recording.

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37. The system of claim 12 where said processor prioritizes electrical signals from said light sensitive devices into a sequence and processes the electrical signals in said sequence.

38. The system of claim 21 where said processor is capable of recognizing at least one two dimensional pattern of light emitted by said light-emitting member and associating an event with each said at least one pattern.

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39. The system of claim 38 where said audio device has a default audio signal associated with undefined patterns of light and said processor causes said audio device to emit said default audio signal when said light emitting device emits an undefined pattern of light.

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40. The system of claim 21 where said light-emitting device displays words, said processor is capable of distinguishing said words and causing said audio device to audibly recite said words.

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41. A programmable system comprising:

(a) a receptor member having one or more light-receiving members, each light receiving member capable of generating a respective electrical signal in response to light incident on said light-receiving member, said receptor member detachably connectable to a light-emitting member that indicates the existence of an event by emitting a light signal associated with said event;

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(b) a programmable processor operatively connected to said receptor member so as to receive said respective electrical signals from said receptor member, said

processor operatively connected to a recording audio member capable of emitting an audio signal associated with said event; and

- (c) said processor being capable of causing said audio member to emit said audio signal when said receptor member is connected to said light emitting member and said light emitting member emits said light signal.

42. The system of claim 41 where said system is programmable by:

- (a) activating a programming mode of said system
- (b) activating a first programming member associated with said processor while causing a light emitting member connected to said receptor member to emit a light signal associated with an event;
- (c) deactivating said programming member;
- (d) recording an audio signal onto said audio device to be associated with said event; and
- (e) deactivating said programming mode.